# PROBLEMS IN FORESTRY.

HOW TO MANAGE AMERICAN WOODS,

REPORT OF THE CHIEF OF THE DIVISION OF FORESTRY, B. G. FERNOW, Washinston. Report of the Commissioner of Agriculture, 1886.

The report of the Chief of the Division of Fo which has just appeared as a portion of the general acport of the Department of Agriculture is a distinct improvement upon the best that has preceded it. Forpolicy on the part of the Government. at could possibly be attained in the earlier researches and in general the adjustment between individual swnership and State Administration—all these, not duly settled, involve questions most difficult and delicate-questions which need far more thorough

climate, soil and water supply, and of their import-ince in furnishing material essential in every form se lessons to the different conditions presented in one may travel for leagues through the finest conifis cheap and every bundle of faggots has its price, would certainly not be adapted to any part of this country at present. Until driven to it by a wood famine Americans will not practise the refinements

Certain broad principles, however, are worth considering as essential in any system or lack of system, and among these is the general superiority of mixed plantations over those consisting of a single species. That there are good reasons for this has long peen recognized. It has been the habit of Western plants. nized. It has been the habit of Western plant ers to fill in the spaces between the more valuable and costly seedlings with cheaper and quickly-growing stuff, so as to keep the ground shaded and subdue the grass and weeds. This inferior growth can be re-moved as the nobler trees expand and fill the space. Even then the trees that were to remain might be black walnut, white ash or some other one species, before it was half grown. In favor of mixed permanent plantations, it has been urged (1) that variety of educt to a certain extent is more readily marketable; product to a certain extent is more readily marketable;
(2) that one tree species may be supposed to feed more
largely on some particular element of the soil, while
another species is partial to another element, so that
a mixed growth would be more likely to utilize the
full productive capacity of the soil; (3) that the roots
of one species run near the surface, while those of of one species run near the surface, while those of another may feed more deeply, and therefore it is advisable to mingle trees with dissimilar habits in this respect: (4) that when any species is attacked by injurious fungi or insects their ravages will be more serious in groves examples of this species only than would be the case if other kinds which do not attract and harbor those pests were mingled with the infested species, and (5) that a uniform growth of certain species would receive greater damage from wind or fire. To these considerations Mr. Fernow adds that trees with thin fellage, and which, therefore, do not closely shade the ground or return to it a neavy coat of leaf mould, fall in both these respects to conserve or increase favorable soil conditions, and they should, therefore, be mixed with trees having more dense therefore, be mixed with trees having more dense foliage, and that an undergrowth should be provided of trees and shrubs that thrive under the shadow of

the tailer species or older ones of the same species.

Mr. Fernow enlarges somewhat upon this thesis, and in his list of important timber trees he attempt and in his list of hisportant the classify them in some degree according to their to classify them in some degree according to their ability to endure shade. It is to be noted that the trees which are said to be "shade enduring" are also heavily leaved, while the thin-foliaged trees are spoken heavily leaved, while the thin-foliaged trees are speaked of irterchangeably with "light-needing" trees. There are many exceptions to this rule, The black birch, for example, is called "light-needing," as it is certainly thin-foliaged. But every wanderer through Northern woods must remember how often this tree constitutes a large fraction of the undergrowth, and this ern woods must remember now other that stitutes a large fraction of the undergrowth, and this ought to give it rank as a "shade-enduring" kind. This capacity for shade varies according to age and This capacity for shade varies according to age and situation no doubt, and in a note to the tree catalogue a caution is added that it is a "relative" quality. This, perhaps, explains some apparent contradictions. The white pine, for example, is classed among trees that "do not endure much shade." While in another place it is said by way of illustration: "If by cutting a thin follaged forces, (oak) an existing growth of shade-enft is said by way of illustration: "If by cutting a thin foliaged forest (oak) an existing growth of shade-enduring species (white pine) is given the benefit of increased light, the latter will occupy the ground to the exclusion of the former." The treatment of this subject, owing perhaps to limitation of space, is somewhat confusing in its details—and the chief value of the report as it relates to this subject does not lie in its specific directions. It is the general suggestion, opening a field which so far as we know has not been thoroughly explored, that gives it interest. If it is thoroughly explored, that gives it interest. If it is important to consider the root systems of trees in estimating their influence upon their companions and upon the soil, we may reasonably suppose that the character of the foliage of companion trees can be studied to advantage.

As for the rest, it may be said that the general principles of forestry laid down are sound and plainly stated, although the rules for forest management differ in many points from the methods that have been generally accepted in European schools. renewal of forests by natural seeding seems better ited to our conditions, where land is cheap and labor dear, than the clearing away of large areas and reproduction by artificial planting. Experience, how-ever, can alone be trusted to settle this point. The ever, can alone be trusted to settle this point. The value of forest undergrowth is wisely insisted upon, since the contrary doctrine which demands "a clean grove" has been preached persistently by some of our so-called authorities. There is good reason for calling attention to the fact that arboriculture is not all of forestry. The landscape gardener and roadside planter have for their object individual trees or at most a group of trees with chief reference to their appearance. The forester has to do with trees in the aggregate. He is producing a crop, and his aim must most a group of trees with chief reference to their appearance. The forester has to do with trees in the aggregate. He is producing a crop, and his aim must be to adopt the best and quickest and cheapest methods for its development white preparing the soil for successive crops in the future. Mr. Fernow regrets that American writers have conceived of forestry mainly as tree planting, or the creation of new forests. No doubt it is of more importance to care for those we have than to establish new ones. It would have been fair to state that this fact has not been entirely overlooked, and it would have been gracious to have added the obvious reason why it has not been more generally insisted on. On the Western prairies there were no forests, and tree-planting was the one things needed, while in the East until within a few years wood has been so abundant that we have been occupied in clearing it away. There is too much indifference to the future of our forests, but this is no more surprising than the so-called exhaustive methods of agriculture which still prevail in the wheat recions of the West and which are being slowly superseded in the East. The wonder is that with a population ever on the move so great a public interest in forestry has been aroused before the scarcity of timber and the evils that follow the denudation of the highlands where our streams take rise have made themselves felt. Year much has been done in an instituted and disinterest way to sequire and diffuse meetical has vicined on the public spirit of the limiting and additioned on now he found wherever they we disquest and the same questions, and that an institute a sadding on now he found wherever they we disquest descriptions to the public spirit of the

Plantage in the base. They deserve a more ample recognitions than has ret been accorded to them.

\*\*Plant mainly such trees as are indigenous to the offmate in which you plant," is a good rule, for it not only excludes in the main foreign species, but forbids, for example, the use in the East of trees from the Pacific stope, where the climate is more dissimilar from our ewn than is that of Rastern Asia. In another section, however, the Person advocates the introduction of the Norway spruce as a timber tree on grounds which are purely theoretical. Whenever a foreign tree has proved its value there should be no hesitation about using it. Western planters, for example, have found the European alder and Scotch pine useful, especially in the early growth of newly planted forest area. It is not improbable that on the Northwestern plains trees from the great central plateau of Eastern Europe may be made to play an important part in forest economy, for the climates of these two regions are not dissimilar. Reports from California seem to indicate that the English oak may be profitably naturalized there. The tree is of no economical value here, but the climate of Western Europe differs less from that of the Pacific States than from our own. Few foreign trees have been tried here under good forest conditions; but nearly every important European tree has been planted, and a few of them give promise of success. That most of them have falled where our own flourish is the less to be regretted when we consider the wonderful wealth of arborescent forms in our native woods as compared with the limited number of European appetes.

In the census catalogue 412 species of native trees.

weath of a porescent forms to the marky successive compared with the limited number of European species.

In the census catalogue 412 species of native trees are named, and some 25 species have since been detected. From these Mr. Fernow makes a "list of 90 of the most important timber trees." The list is called "proliminary," and further study and experience will probably lead to its medification in several particulars. Lawson's express, for example, is omitted although it is the most valuable of the whole cupressus tribe, a very important factor in the Pacific lumber supply and one of the most spiendid trees in the world. Another tree not mentioned is Pinus Monticola, the most valuable species in the northern interior region, a first-rate timber tree and one that will endure more drouth than any of the white pines. The omission of Fremoni's poplar is easier to explain, because it is of more importance for firewood than timber. In Southern California and Arizona, however, the settlers depend upon it largely for fuel, pollating it every year. Why the three Pacific firs—Abies grantia, A noblits and A Amabilis—are described as "probably" useful in the East hardly appears. How many specimens of A amabilis are growing east of the Rocky Mountains? This tree was practically lost to entityation for half a century, being known only by a few European specimens. Half a dozen years ago it was reliscovered by Engelmann and Sargent—and if any of the seedlings they sent home are still living the fact is not generally known. The great silver fir (A. grandis) is a hardy and rapid grower on the Oregon coast, but is tender as a camellia in New-England, and it is questionable whether the red fir (A. gobilis) will be of any use on this side of the continental divide. The Sitks spruce is certainly not hardy in the Northeastern States, and the little ex-(A. sobilis) will be of any use on this side of the continental divide. The Sitka spruce is certainly not hardy in the Northeastern States, and the little experience that has been gained in planting the redwood in the Southern Atlantic States is not encouraging. Pinus ponderossa is recommended for trial on the prairies, but it is the testimony of Robert Douglas, who has tried it repeatedly, that it is invariably carried off by a destructive fungus. Foxtail pine (P. Balfourlana) is recommended for reforesting southern exposures of western mountains, but this is a slow growing tree and difficult to transplant. For the purpose recommended P. flexilis—a plant. For the purpose recommended P. flexilis—a tree of the same location—would seem to be preferable. And why is Pinus mitts noted as the pine of future Southern forestry? It is an excellent tree, but it is practically unknown in the maritime pine belt, repropractically unknown in the martine pine test, reproducing itself only in certain northern parts of the Gulf States. Have we sufficient data for pronouncing P. glabra the most rapid growing pine, or the live oak the most rapid growing and most shade enduring of all the oaks, or the burr oak as more shade enduring than the white oak?

These are a few of the questions suggested by an examination of this list, and many others will be asked.

races are a rew of the questions suggested by an examination of this list, and many others will be asked before all the information we need is given. Mr. Fernow states that biological studies of several important trees have been undertaken by competent men and monographs on the white pine, the long-leaved Southern pine and the baid cypress have been completed. They may have been printed, but if so the fact is not generally known, nor has the report on Western tree planting to which Mr. Fernow refers. on Western tree planting, to which Mr. Fernow refers, been very generally distributed. These are doc-uments which should be made available to all who are interested in torestry, and we may add that the subject of this notice ought to be published sepa-rately.

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Legal Notices.

SUPREME COURT, CITY AND COUNTY

Exchange and Auction Room, Induced, Now. Street, in Liberty Street, in the City of New-York, on the afteenth day of September, 1887, at twelve o'clock noon, by Seton & Co., auctioneers, the premises in said judgment described, viz:

All that certain piece or parcel of land situate in the Ninetecuth Ward of the City of New-York and bounded and described as follows: Bestiming at a point on the northerly side of East Forty-afth Street, distance the northerly side of East Forty-afth Street, distance the northernality and parallel with First Avenue, and runding tenes northwardly and parallel with First Avenue, and runding tenes northwardly and parallel with First Avenue, and runding tenes of (fave) inches; thence castwardly permission of the certain through another party wall 100 (one hundred) teet and involution with First Avenue, and part of the cistance through another party wall, 100 (one hundred) teet and involution of the contract of the cistance westwardly along said street 25 (twenty-five) feet to the point or place of beginning. The said premises being mow known as Number Server, afth Street; and being the same which were conveyed to the raid Amand Guisen by Marry Ann Wright by The Server, in Libes Dated New-York, August 22, 1887.

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